

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19695

This legislation changes the definition of what is commonly known as "statutory rape" as defined at 18-6101. Under current law, sexual relations (as defined) with a girl who has not reached the age of 18 is considered rape, even if both parties participate willingly. This bill amends the definition of statutory rape to include such acts when the offender is age 18 or older and the victim is under age 16 (rather than 18), or the victim is 16 or 17 and the offender is 3 or more years older than the victim. Changes are also made to the male rape statute at 18-6108 to bring it into conformity with the provisions of the female rape statute at 18-6101.

FISCAL NOTE

The bill would create no negative fiscal impact on the state General Fund. However, since fewer persons would be prosecuted for and convicted of statutory rape, there could be savings to the local municipalities, the court system, and the Idaho Department of Corrections. Cost savings to the Department of Corrections is estimated to be approximately \$.5 million annually.

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